

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02

SCCT-01 EUR-12 EB-07 SCA-01 /080 W

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R 121832Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1081

INFO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRIDGETOWN 1281

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:

SUBJ: BOMB BLAST IN BRIDGETOWN

1. THE NIGHT OF JULY 11 AN EXPLOSION CAUSED EXTENSIVE, BUT NON-STRUCTURAL, DAMAGE TO A THREE-STORY BUILDING IN DOWNTOWN BRIDGETOWN. IT APPEARS A DEVICE WAS PLACED ON THE SIDEWALK IMMEDIATELY IN FRONT OF THE GROUND FLOOR OFFICES OF THE TRINIDAD-TOBAGO-OWNED BRITISH WEST INDIAN AIRWAYS (BWIA). (DAMAGE APPEARS TO BE APPROX EQUAL TO THAT WHICH WOULD RESULT FROM AN RPG OR SMALL MORTAR ROUND). THE BOMBED BUILDING ALSO HOUSES THE BRANCH OF A BRITISH BANK, AN OFFICE OF BRITISH-OWNED CABLE AND WIRELESS, A LOCAL FIRM AND THE RECENTLY OPENED OFFICE OF THE EEC REPRESENTATIVE HERE.

2. THE BARBADOS POLICE SAY THAT THEIR INVESTIGATIONS HAVE NOT YET PRODUCED ANY RESULTS, AND HAVE ASKED GOB EXPERTS TO ANALYZE THE CAUSE OF THE EXPLOSION.

3.COMMENT: BOMBINGS HAVE NEVER BEEN A FEATURE OF BARBADIAN POLITICS AND IT IS HARD TO IMAGINE ANY LOCAL
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LEFT OR RIGHT WING DISSENTENTS RESPONSIBLE FOR SATURDAY'S

BLAST. SUGAR PRODUCERS HERE ARE UNHAPPY WITH NEXT YEAR'S PROPOSED EEC SUGAR PRICE BUT WE HARDLY THINK ANY OF THEM WOULD HAVE THOUGHT TO PHYSICALLY ATTACK THE EEC OFFICE. SOMEWHAT MORE PLAUSIBLE IS THAT BWIA COULD HAVE BEEN TARGETED FOR ITS ROLE AS CUBANA'S LOCAL AGENT, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF THE CUBAN AIRLINES RECENTLY ESTABLISHED AIR LINK TO ANGOLA VIA BARBADOS. FINALLY, ALTHOUGH FAR FETCHED, THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE BLAST MAY HAVE BEEN THE WORK OF GOVERNMENT SUPPORTERS ANXIOUS TO JUSTIFY A STATE OF EMERGENCY AND POSSIBLE POSTPONEMENT OF THE GENERAL ELECTION CANNOT BE RULED OUT BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC. BRITTON

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Message Attributes

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